The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the basic trial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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"America is not merely a name. It is not merely a land. It is not merely a country, nor is it merely a continent. America is symbol; it is an ideal; the hopes of the world can be expressed in the ideal—America."
—Samuel Gompers.

WHOLE NO. 2025 | WILLIAM GREEN, *President* | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1950 | GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* | VOL. 40, NO. 5

Green Predicts 1950 Great Year For AFL

Washington—"It is going to be a great year for us!"

AFL President William Green made the prediction in the principal speech at government ceremonies in connection with the first day sale of the Samuel Gompers commemorative stamp on Jan. 27.

The stamp went on sale on the 100th anniversary of the birth of Mr. Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL. The occasion was marked by a formal program in the U.S. Postoffice Department in which the participants with Mr. Green included Postmaster General Jesse M. Donaldson, Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin and House Majority Leader John W. McCormack.

The several hundred guests included AFL Vice President W. C. Doherty, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers; other high-ranking AFL and government officials, a delegation of German officials and trades unionists, and Mrs. Florence Gompers McKay, eldest daughter of Mr. Gompers and Dr. J. Calvin McKay, great-grandson of Mr. Gompers.

Speaking of Mr. Gompers, Mr. Green said:

"No one can evaluate the services that this great man gave to the world to promote international security and peace and the welfare of the common people throughout the world."

He recalled his personal associations with Mr. Gompers in establishment of the International Labor Organization at the Paris peace conference in 1919. He expressed appreciation for issuance of the stamp and pointed out the AFL is going to celebrate this centennial year of Mr. Gompers birth with a year-long organizing drive for 1,000,000 new members, a political drive to elect a liberal Congress, and a continuing series of meetings and rallies honoring the AFL founder.

"It is going to be a great year for us," Mr. Green said.

"We hope that through these activities the people will come to understand better the objectives and aims of labor and to support labor. The issuance of this stamp will help promote that cause."

Mr. Donaldson called issuance of the stamp "precedent-making" because it is the first ever honoring a labor leader. He said that since the "Famous Americans" series was started in 1940, more than 35 stamps have been issued honoring Americans in seven other walks of life.

Secretary Tobin said that the stamp honored not only Mr. Gompers but also the progress that has been made in improvement of working conditions in the past half-century. He said that Mr. Gompers' slogan of "has worked well for the benefit of all Americans."

Mr. McCormack called Mr. Gompers "one of the great men of all time."

Mr. Donaldson presented albums of the stamps to Mr. Tobin and Mr. Green.

UNIONS SUPPORT SYMPHONY DRIVE

Washington—Individual unions have voted contributions to the $100,000 annual fund of the National Symphony Orchestra.

Miss Sylvia Altman, director of information and research of the Washington Central Labor Union, said that this is the first time that the unions have made such gifts in an effort to keep the National operating.

The Central Labor Union has formally endorsed the campaign and offered its services as special labor unions committee of the orchestra.

OPPOSES DECONTROL

Jackson, Miss.—W. L. Hines, president of the Mississippi State Federation of Labor, said the AFL is "flatly opposed" to a bill in the state senate to decontrol rent statewide.

Ceremony in Washington at Monument Marks Gompers Birthday

Washington.—AFL President William Green (right center) lays wreath inscribed "1850-1950" at statue to Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL, on the 100th anniversary of Mr. Gompers' birth, Jan. 27, 1950. Behind Mr. Green is a delegation of West German officials and trade unionists. AFL Vice President W. C. Doherty, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers (left center), watches Mr. Green. Behind Mr. Doherty are AFL International Representative George P. Delaney, Vice President Elmer E. Walker (partly obscured), Archbishop Patrick J. O'Boyle of Washington, Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston, British Embassy Legan Kinmont, AFL executive council member Joseph D. Keenan, and other officers of the AFL International Relations Committee. Behind Mr. Green is Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin, chief clerk; W. C. Hushing, AFL legislative chairman; President Leo George of the AFL National Association of Postoffice Clerks.

Tobin and Green Given First Stamps

Washington.—Postmaster Jesse M. Donaldson (left) presents albums of the first sheets of stamps honoring Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL, to Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin, third from left, and AFL President William Green, extreme right. Between the two Cabinet officers is House Majority Leader John W. McCormack.

Democrat Backed Against Bolton

Cleveland, O.—AFL, CIO and Railroad Brotherhood leaders in Cleveland have joined forces in supporting Chet Patterson in his race for the Democratic nomination for Congress from the crucial 22d District of Ohio.

The 22d District with 800,000 people is the largest district in America and polls a vote larger than the vote cast in 17 states. The district is presently represented by a Republican, the fabulously wealthy society man, Mrs. Frances P. Bolton.

The district is the key to the Taft Republican hopes to elect each win in Ohio in 1950 if he doesn't carry the 22d District.

On Mr. Patterson's sponsoring committee are President Jack Burns of the Cleveland Federation of Labor; Edward F. Murphy, president of the AFL Labor's League for Political Education; Joseph Feigan, executive council 41 of the Teamsters Union of the AFL; William Fingan, executive secretary of the Cleveland Federation of Labor, and Thomas H. Winston, general chairman of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks of the AFL.

Sen. Taft's 'Silly' Season Returns

Washington.—Sen. Robert A. Taft's "silly" season has returned.

So says Henry Kaiser, counsel for the AFL International Typographical Union.

The senator, who forced Robert N. Denham, general counsel for the National Labor Relations Board, to seek an injunction against the typographical union, now says that Mr. Denham is wrong in seeking the same kind of injunction against the United Mine Workers.

Mr. Taft said that Congress had never intended the act's provisions cited by Mr. Denham against the miners to be used to force men back to work when they had no contract.

Yet, Mr. Kaiser points out, Mr. Taft argued that the opposite in the ITU dispute with the American Newspaper Publishers Association. He not only urged Mr. Denham to act but called two Denham attorneys to his office in an attempt to intimidate them into carrying out his wishes. At the time, President Truman called Mr. Taft's action "shocking."

"It looks as though Senator Taft's silly season has returned," Mr. Kaiser commented as the miners went "on strike" again before the labor board under the Taft-Hartley law.

Mudded Mo' Proves No Need For Draft

Washington.—The AFL opposes extension of the draft law of 1948 for a period of 3 years.

George J. Burger, AFL legislative representative, told the House armed services committee that "there are no straw men now to frighten us into another peacetime conscription which could as easily lead to war as it could to peace."

Mr. Riley pointed to recent release from the army, deescoming the need for a 70-group air force, and other statements that we are a long way from war.

The leader of Missouri gets stuck in the mud and we hereby agree with him that we think so little of the prospect of war that this resolution for only commissioned battleship," Mr. Riley said.

The AFL passage of the bill would only further "add to the present enormous cost for 17 million Americans still without kitchen sinks, 14 million without vacuum cleaners, 40 million without bathtubs or showers."

PRAISES THOMAS

Washington—As President William Green said "the masses of the people" had to get to Washington th ; vote on legislation affecting labor, so did Norman Thomas.

It is in the interest of every union member that part of his contribution is used in a national fund thrown into key races where liberal candidates have the best cance of victory.

Green Calls For Brotherhood

By WILLIAM GREEN
President American Federation of Labor

Washington.—As in past years, I have called upon the 8 million members of the American federation of Labor to observe Brotherhood Week, beginning February 19, as an occasion for reuniting the liberal forces of America in the fight against intolerance, discrimination, and racial and religious prejudice. This is a cause in which all men and women of good will can and should join.

The American Federation of Labor believes that it would be a great achievement in the forthcoming year if "Brotherhood" if Congress would adopt the Civil Rights program proposed by President Truman. Despite organized opposition, we are convinced that real progress is being made toward the eventual adoption of this legislation.

American freedom and democracy are menaced today by totalitarian doctrines which trample upon the dignity, the freedom, and the liberty of individuals. To strengthen resistance for this struggle and to assure the survival of American freedom we must make freedom a reality for all Americans citizens regardless of race, color, or creed. That is the goal of Brotherhood Week and it is the goal of organized labor.

T-H Board Sees Some Labor Points

Washington.—Surprise! The Taft-Hartley labor relations board has finally seen labor's point of view in a few crucial areas in the administration of the repressive law.

The surprise represents no gain for labor but means only that the AFL and other unions have finally been protected from the destructive effects of the Taft-Hartley law that they already enjoyed.

This "holding-the-line" action—both months of hard legal fighting—now will pay off only if labor continues to fight for repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and wins.

AFL officials pointed out that in the past few weeks the National Labor Relations Board has had to provide a number of important secondary boycott issues. The AFL Research Report points out:

"In most of these the crucial decisions, surprisingly enough, have favored the position taken by labor unions.

"According to present rulings of the NLRB, a union can utilize any available weapon which is otherwise legal against a primary employer (the one with whom the dispute exists) to the products or his equipment, regardless of any incidental effect it may have on some other employer.

"This is what it means the following:

"Picketing—A union can conduct any type of peaceful picketing at the gate of the struck plant of the primary employer, and the pickets can solicit the aid of the employees of others to observe their picket line. In a dispute with a building contractor, due to trucking business, a union can utilize an injunction against the typographical union, now says that Mr. Denham is wrong in seeking the same kind of injunction against the United Mine Workers.

Mr. Taft said that Congress had never intended the act's provisions cited by Mr. Denham against the miners to be used to force men back to work when they had no contract.

Yet, Mr. Kaiser points out, Mr. Taft argued that the opposite in the ITU dispute with the American Newspaper Publishers Association. He not only urged Mr. Denham to act but called two Denham attorneys to his office in an attempt to intimidate them into carrying out his wishes. At the time, President Truman called Mr. Taft's action "shocking."

"It looks as though Senator Taft's silly season has returned," Mr. Kaiser commented as the miners went "on strike" again before the labor board under the Taft-Hartley law.

Have You Given $2 to the LLPE?

Washington.—Joseph D. Keenan, director of the AFL's Labor's League for Political Education, urges every local AFL union to pass a resolution at a regular meeting calling on every member to contribute $2 to the league by the time he pays dues the following month.

The $2 contribution drive was recommended by the state and local league conferences in Washington last summer and later approved by the LLPE National Committee at the AFL convention in St. Paul.

One-half of the contributions will be returned to the state of origin. The other half will be used in states and districts where the need is greatest, but where local union membership and resources are limited.

It does make any difference where liberal Congressmen come from. What does get to Washington th ; vote on legislation affecting labor, so did Norman Thomas.

HONOR GOMPERS

Syracuse, N. Y.—Over 500 delegates of the New York State Federation of Labor gathered in Carpenters' Hall January 25 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Samuel Gompers' birth, and to launch the AFL's organizing drive in New York State.

Frank Edwards reports the news at 10 p.m. Monday through Friday on MBS.

BACK MARCH OF DIMES

Jackson, Miss.—One of the most active segments of the 1950 March of Dimes campaign here was the labor committee headed by E. R. Sanders. The committee was composed of members of the Jackson Building Trades Council.

AFL-CARE Aid to French Workers

Paris.—AFL Vice President Matthew Woll, president of the AFL Labor League for Human Rights, discusses distribution of needy French trade unionists during his recent European visit. He is shown with, l. to r., Miss Joubert, social service, Seamen's Workers' Federation; M. Guy Lamarque, French AFL representative and trustee for distribution of AFL-CARE packages; Daniel Benedict; CARE mission chief in France.

Prof. Says Business Dumb on Commies

By ARNOLD REICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—The American business community, abysmally ignorant, about what communism is and what communism is doing, according to Prof. James Burnham of New York University, Professor Burnham, now on leave, is with the State Department in an advisory capacity.

Professor Burnham, whose views were published in the current American Review magazine under the title "The Suicidal Mania of American Business," denounces the business community as "stupid, selfgreedy, too reactionary and, in a certain sense, Utopian."

The author's indictment charges that:

1. Businessmen are "irked" by the State Department's restrictions on exports to the Communist Empire.

2. The "monstrous profits and profits" of the American business system are exploiters handed over gratuitously to the Communist propaganda machine.

3. "Very many businessmen do not in the least dislike communism as communist and an anarchist, democratic socialist or more eccentric dissident."

4. "Some of the businessmen, plain and simple reactionaries, are flagrantly antiunion. They would like literally to smash the trade unions. Since their likes become known (they) heap up grist for the communist propaganda mill.

5. Other businessmen, "from ignorance or greed or both, act toward unions in such a way as to make communist-led unions against anticommunist unions."

6. Some great publishing houses "have published large lists of copies of propagandized books by communists and their fellow-travelers" and in "their million-copied magazines, they print articles skillfully advancing the communist line.

"While the New Leader," says Professor Burnham, "the finest anticommunist paper in the country, and a journal of real distinction, lilts permanently on the edge of bankruptcy and keeps barely going only because of the goodwill of its first-rate but unpaid contributors and the enlightened backing of David Dubinsky, the businessmen write their checks to newspapers and magazines run by communist unified fronts or hospitable to communist authors."

The author, whose article is a second installment of that published in February called "The Coming Defeat of Communism," says that during the 1940 recession, "shabby schemes were proposed for business relief restrictions, by indirect sales through Holland, Belgium and other intermediary nations, were worked out."

Professor Burnham said a German rearmament and the American sales of arms to Europe, to "our allies" who "are the freshest and most painful memories," would "arouse the greatest common sense are fatuously disregarded. It would not, of course, be sensible to stop all trade with the Communist Empire. But to trade on a big and unrestricted scale is to prepare suicide or, rather, to power of the enemy. The inability of businessmen to solve their economic problem is probably their greatest weakness and our greatest protection. Are we going to solve it for them?"

Your businessman regards himself as staunchly anticommunist, and sometimes is. But he is anticommunist sometimes (and because they are greedy and short-sighted) they act differently as they help communism," says Professor Burnham.

"They really cannot believe that the communists mean what they say," he writes, as they continue to help bring themselves to believe Hitler's and Stalin's words "that communists are serious" when they declare they are going to conquer the world.

ARBITRATORS PAY HONOR TO DAVIS

Washington.—The National Academy of Arbitrators has awarded Harry H. Davis, former chairman of the National War Labor Board, a third annual dinner at Hotel Statler.

Speakers included former Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, Sen. Frank H. Graham of North Carolina, Chairman Paul M. Herzog of the National Labor Relations Board, and Arther Meyer, former chairman of the New York State Mediation Board.

William Simkin, Philadelphia, was elected president to succeed Ralph Seward and Carl Schadler was chosen secretary to succeed Alfred A. Colby.

AFL Says Denham 'Unfit To Continue'

Miami, Fla.—The AFL Executive Council seathingly denounced Chief Counsel Robert Denham of the National Labor Relations Board for an "unprovoked and unjustifiable" attack upon the Teamsters' Union which "added conviction to organized labor's view that Denham is unfit" for his office.

At the same time, AFL President William Green announced that he has invited leaders of the International Association of Machinists to a conference here for the purpose of arranging the ratification of that organization with the American Federation of Labor. The machinists' withdrew with their 700,000 members, 5 years ago because of jurisdictional disputes with several AFL affiliates.

Another development of the opening session of the Executive Councils three-day session was the announcement that President Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany will confer with officers of the Aluminum Workers National Council to make arrangements for the issuance of an International Union Chapter to that organization, now counting 12,000 members in various federal labor unions. If plans are successfully worked out, the Aluminum Workers will become the 108th International Union in the AFL.

At his press conference, Mr. Green said that the Executive Council had serious reservations about the recent speech delivered by Denham before the Academy of Labor and Management in Washington, D. C. After studying a copy of the speech, the Council issued the following statement:

"Several weeks ago, in a speech before the Industrial Relations Employers Association in New York, the general counsel for the National Labor Relations Board sought, the said and assistance of employers in connection with that board.

"Despite recent decisions of the board, which did not meet with his attitude fully or entirely, Mr. Denham subtly but emphatically urged these employers to seek reversal of these decisions in the courts, even though he, as general counsel, is required under the law to represent in the courts the very agency he criticized.

"In that speech, Mr. Denham again demonstrated his adamant and unreasoning antagonism to organized labor and again disclosed himself as the protagonist of the employers. This he further confirmed in relation to the view of organized labor that he is to continue in his present position which requires impartiality in dealings with labor and management in carrying out the law.

"Today, Mr. Denham has again publicly sought the support of employers and again has publicly cast his lot with them.

"In a speech delivered in Washington, D. C., Mr. Denham expanded his field of complaint. While still critical of and impatient with decisions of the National Labor Relations Board, he charges into the legislative field and suggests that certain labor unions are monopolistic organizations whose activities should be made intermarshal and prescribed by enactment of antitrust laws of general application.

"Stating that the International Brotherhood of Teamsters has a complete hold over every segment of the economic life of the nation, and makes certain circumstances, draft the economic and monopolistic non-labor monopolistic unions, Mr. Denham suggested that such unions should be subjected to curb such powers and control.

"This unjustifiable and unprovoked attack on labor generally and on the teamsters in particular, is unwarranted and contrary to the factual foundation.

"Since the Teamsters Union singled out for attack, it is pointed out that the Teamsters have a contract with employers on a local or regional basis and not on a national basis. It is further pointed out that the Teamsters Union has not been involved in a serious strike of national significance in years.

Mr. Green added to the Council statement that would apply to the attack by Mr. Denham. He said that after checking with Teamsters' President David J. Beck, he found that not a single teamsters' strike is now in progress anywhere in the nation.

Denham Viciously Attacks Teamsters

Washington.—Robert N. Denham, general counsel for the National Labor Relations Board, launched a vicious attack on the AFL Teamsters Union in a speech before the American Trucking Association.

Mr. Denham said that the power of the Teamsters Union in this country by the Teamsters Union "is sufficient to paralyze the economic power of other unions "into relative insignificance."

"There would be no measuring the economic power which would be in the hands of the Teamsters in this country," Mr. Denham said. "It would be unconstrained" its control over business.

Mr. Denham, who told the trucking company executives, "unless a strike-settlement agreement or formula pattern for collective bargaining is found that will put an end to all of the industries they touch."

Mr. Denham, who is the government's Taft-Hartley Act prosecutor, emphasized that "it is hardly necessary for me to remind you that the Taft-Hartley Act is the law of the land."

Despite the efforts of Congress in 1947, through the Taft-Hartley provisions to do something to "curb the excesses of labor, only as it exists in the Teamsters, but in every other field of industrial activity, we still have a long way to go before what we consider a proper balance interest will be realized," Mr. Denham added.

"Labor has the right to organize, exercise over your collective businesses."

Mr. Denham declared that the control of your transportation of goods by the Teamsters Union is the means from which you carry goods, and into the storerooms of the customers to which you deliver goods."

Sharply at odds with some members of the board for which he is counsel, he noted further that the agency had decided several cases against the Teamsters Union in the courts.

JOIN CONFERENCE

New York.—AFL representatives will attend the second National Conference on the Church and Economic Life beginning Feb. 16 in Detroit.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

Samuel Gompers said:

A union man carrying a card is not a good citizen unless he upholds the institutions of our country and a poor citizen of our country if he upholds the institutions of our country and forgets the obligations of his trade association.

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1950 GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

AFL Council Holds Housing Shortage Is Still Critical

Miami, Fla.—The AFL executive council punctured the real estate industry's grandiose self-congratulations on 1949's record home-building.

And it called for continuation of effective rent controls until the supply of homes is increased sufficiently to "fit the pocketbooks of the millions of families who are without decent housing."

The council statement said:

"Compared with the 1920-29 decade, production of housing has increased much less than production of automobiles or other consumer goods. Indeed, the 1949 record still represents only two-thirds of the level that is necessary if we are to lick the housing shortage within the next decade.

"Not only has the 1949 level of construction failed to meet the overall need, but it has particularly failed to meet the needs of moderate-income families, including, in particular, the majority of American workers.

"The average wage of factory employes today is about $55 a week. According to recognized income or $60 a month for housing purposes. Last year, however, under the existing FHA private housing program, rentals of new apartments averaged $90 a month and prices of new homes for sale averaged $8,000, involving a monthly housing cost upwards of $80. Clearly the housing needs of American workers and their families are not being met.

"The crying need among American families today—is a middle-income housing program. Such a program is now before Congress.

"In the Senate the Banking and Currency Committee is considering S. 2246 introduced by Senator John Sparkman, as modified by an amendment introduced by Senator Robert Maybank. In the House, a similar bill has been offered by Congressman Brent Spence.

"These bills would make possible private financing of long-term low interest loans for cooperative housing projects for middle-income families.

"We estimate that under the terms of this bill rents for an average 4½-room apartment would be reduced by $55-55 a month. This compares with rents of similar dwellings offered by private builders of $80 a month or more.

"This program offers a practical means of obtaining decent homes for thousands of middle-income families at prices they can afford to pay. We urge its immediate enactment so that we can begin to meet the acute housing shortage of our moderate-income families.

"However, we recognize that at the present time, the housing shortage is still with us. Until the middle-income housing program as well as the current public housing program enacted last summer amply begins to flow a supply of homes, an effective rent control program must be continued. We can safely remove rent controls only in only one way—by building an adequate supply of homes that fit the pocketbooks of the millions of families who are without decent housing today."

'It's Easier to Look at Stars . . .'

Washington.—"It's easier to look at stars when your stomach is full," Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL, said in arguing for a strong trade union movement. The eyes of the founder and the heroic figure behind the statuary bronze have been fixed upward on the stars. AFL President William Green lays a wreath at this monument to his predecessor on the 100th anniversary of Mr. Gompers' birth, Jan. 27, 1950.

AFL to Expand Its Community Service

Philadelphia.—Nelson H. Cruikshank, director of AFL insurance activities, said that the AFL plans continued extension of its activity in the planning and programming of community welfare, particularly in the field of social service.

Speaking before 300 representatives of labor, industrial and social agencies at an all-day conference sponsored jointly by the Central Labor Union of Philadelphia and vicinity, the Community Chest and the Health and Welfare Council, Mr. Cruikshank urged a "partnership of the various groups in achieving maximum results from Community Chest work."

The AFL representative said "the challenge of the future is to create an honest good human relations" and urged labor to participate in anything that affects the welfare of the community.

He represented the national AFL in the absence of Matthew Woll, vice president of labor organization, who was prevented from attending by illness. The institute was held in memory of Samuel Gompers, first president of the AFL.

James A. Wechsler, editor of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, presided.

HINES NAMED

New York.—Lewis G. Hines, AFL special representative, was appointed by American Legion Commander George N. Craig to the permanent committee of a new organization to combat communism in the United States. The AFL is one of the organizations with a combined membership of 50,000,000 members which joined the new set-up.

Farmers, AFL Join Hands To Win Liberal Congress

Miami, Fla.—The executive council of the American Federation of Labor mapped a legislative program to be supported in the 1950 session for Congress and laid plans for an effective political campaign to elect friends of the AFL program to House and Senate.

The council:

1. Called for passage of a moderate-income housing law to permit cooperative home building because 1949's record home-building year failed to meet the needs.

2. Urged continuation of an effective rent control program and the housing shortage is eliminated.

3. Planned greater cooperation with farm and rural voters who are showing increasing grumpiness for labor's point of view on federal legislation for labor, farmer and small business.

4. Made the primary political job one of getting voters registered.

5. Demanded immediate congressional action to repeal federal excise taxes imposed during the war on many consumer items.

The council laid plans for the 1950 political campaign confident that "the farm revolt will help us."

Joseph D. Keenan, director of Labor's League for Political Education, said many members of Congress who voted for the Taft-Hartley Act were dependent removal of or imitation of farm price-support legislation. He asserted that the Democratic party's price support. His own conclusion, fortified by frequent visits to rural areas, was that farmers were turning away from the Republican party in some localities.

Mr. Keenan also said that while national and state farm organization leaders appeared lukewarm toward cooperating with labor on the political field, "we are getting cooperation from farm leaders and farmers on the county level."

"We expect this cooperation to increase as time goes on and the farmers see that they have much in common with labor," he added.

In a tour of the South just completed, Mr. Keenan said there is depression that labor-farmer cooperation could succeed in electing six to nine friendly Representatives from that area.

Excerpts from his report to the administrative committee of Labor's League follow:

"We have good organized labor needing 5 additional U.S. Senators and 15 additional members of the House who are friendly to labor.

"The chief political problem of the 1950 off-year as far as labor is concerned is to get labor's vote out to get the vote out.

"The second most important problem is to make sure that the friends of labor who are in the House and Senate are reelected. In 1948 labor had so much on the campaign and was largely devoted to getting the 'ins' out. In 1950 labor has to fight a more defensive battle because in an off-year it must get its vote out and must show that it can defend its friends who have supported labor in the House and the Senate. For example, of the 22 Democratic Senators up for election in 1950, 18 are friends of labor and only 4 are unfriendly. Of the 13 Republican Senators up for election in 1950 three (Aiken, Vt., Morse, Ore., and Tobey, N. H.) are friends of labor and 10 are unfriendly. Most of the 35 Senators up, 12 are friends and 14 are unfriendly.

"The dangerous Byrd-Taft-Dixiecrat-GOP bloc of 1949 which was emashed in 1950 if labor can defeat Typhoid Harry Byrd, Va., Dixiecrat Hicksenlooper, Iowa; Millikin, Colo.; Taft, Ohio; Wherry, Neb.—I believe there is a fair chance that if the campaign is well handled that Gurney of S. D. could be defeated. The outcome of these particular Senators races depends on what is the most important issue in the 1950 election—the farm issue. At present there is more political activity and discussion in rural areas than there is in urban areas—because of the farm revolt.

"The farmer is active politically because he is worried. Farm income dropped about 5% in 1948 and another 10% in 1949. A further drop of about 10% is indicated in 1950. Meanwhile, the prices of things the farmer buys have only dropped 2%. In addition, the farmer is worried about farm surpluses and when the 1950 election takes place on Nov. 7 the more giant crop will be added to the farmers' troubles and it will help to concentrate further his interest in politics.

"Labor's political job is registration and getting out the vote in the urban areas where, at present, there is a very considerable apathy.

"The farm revolt will benefit in 1950 from the farm revolt against Republican Senators in those states where such Senators happen to be labor's chief enemies and make it all the more important for labor to perform its part in the urban areas by carrying on a bigger and better and more effective registration drive and a special-the-vote drive than ever before."

URGES REGISTRATION

Leon Henderson, president of the AFL International Typographical Union, urged the 800,000 members of its affiliates urging that voter registration drives should be started at once "with special reference to Ohio," where voters must be registered by April 1.

Members of the ITU have paid dearly for labor legislation foisted upon us without our consent or approval," the ITU bulletin said. "This is a reminder to you—Sheets of the one of your remaining prerogatives and vote in 1950 for legislators who will restore your full citizenship."

Farm Union Donates Month's Dues To Members Qualified to Cast Vote

Washington. — President H. L. Mitchell of the AFL National Farm Labor Union has instructed 278 locals to put into immediate effect a plan to exonerate every member qualified to vote in 1950 from payment of one month's membership dues.

The action, ordered by the union's annual convention in Fresno, Calif., January, is one of the most concrete steps taken by an AFL union to support the 1950 Gompers Centennial Year campaign to elect a liberal Congress and add 2,000,000 new members.

The union constitution as amended at Fresno provides:

"All members who present evidence that they are qualified to vote in local, state and national elections, and otherwise exercise their duties as citizens, shall be exonerated from the payment of one month's membership dues each year."

Mr. Mitchell also announced the calling of a conference organizing conference to be held in Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 25 to lay plans to bring into the ranks of the American Federation of Labor thousands of cotton field workers.

The union convention adopted a program to organize 100,000 farm workers throughout the country as a part of the American Federation of Labor's drive for 1,500,000 new members as a memorial to the late Samuel Gompers whose 100th birthday is now being celebrated.

Mitchell said that the organizing campaign among farm workers "is already in full swing on the west coast, and that the drive will be carefully supported by the American Federation of Labor and a number of international unions affiliated with the AFL. Among them are the International Ladies Garment Workers Union; Hotel, Restaurant and Bartenders Employes Union; Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen and Pulp, Sulphite and Paker Makers Union.

Mitchell, who has returned from the west coast, said his convention endorsed the Brannan Farm Plan; urged the replacement of European displaced persons in areas other than depressed agricultural areas where unemployers are unemployed. The convention endorsed Helen Gahagan Douglas for the U. S. Senate and James Roosevelt for governor of the state.

A statement adopted by the convention on "Full Employment in Agriculture" set forth union policy to demand for wages of $1 per hour for an 8-hour day and overtime rates for farm workers. It also suggested a period of a national minimum of $1 per hour for operators of machine farm equipment on large scale farms and a 6-hour day.

The convention elected the following officers for a 2-year term:

H. L. Mitchell, president; Dorothy Dow, secretary-treasurer; F. R. Belton, 1st vice president; George Bith, 2d vice president; George F. Webber, 3d vice president; H. E. Hariwer, 4th vice president; Ernesto Galarza, 5th vice president.

TO DISBAND LAND ARMY

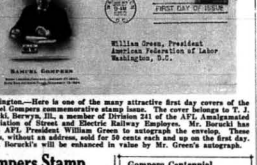
London.—The Women's Land Army created by Great Britain to meet a wartime need is to be disbanded Nov. 30, 1950.

Look Who's Talking!

Miami, Fla.—The board of directors of the National Chamber of Commerce advised congress that to establish a labor extension service in the labor department would cause less rather than greater understanding of labor-management problems.

Chamber members, who enjoy one of the most expensive free government aid programs through the Department of Commerce, says labor doesn't need any federal education extension assistance because present union programs and college courses are sufficient.

A Gompers' Cover for Illinois



William Green, President
American Federation of Labor
Washington, D.C.

Washington.—Here is one of the many attractive first day covers of the Samuel Gompers commemorative stamp issue. The cover belongs to T. J. Herschel, Springfield, Ill., and was addressed to Douglas Fraser, secretary of Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes. Mr. Borschi has asked AFL President William Green to autograph the envelope. These covers, without an address, sold for 50 cents each and up on the first day. The stamp issue, itself, is enhanced in value by Mr. Green's autograph.

Gompers Stamp Sale 'Very Good'

Washington.—AFL members and stamp collectors across the United States bought commemorative stamp one of the biggest first-day sales on record for the "Famous American" series.

The postoffice department described the first day sale here as "very good." Postmaster General Jesse M. Jr. P. in Washington and in the 40,000 other postoffices stamps.

The Washington postoffice sold 546,000 stamps and canceled 1,023 covers on the first day.

Mr. AFL hopes to exhaust the supply of 112,000,000 stamps quickly so that the sale will help swell the receipts of the celebration of the centennial of Mr. Gompers' birth throughout the year.

In Kansas City, Mo., the Central Labor Union has asked all AFL unions to pool their purchases so that every piece of mail out of AFL union offices there this year will carry a Gompers stamp.

The AFL participated in the first day cover auction by sending a photography of the founder and first president of the AFL to governmental officials, Congress and international union officers.

In New York a special ceremony was held on the steps of the general postoffice.

Although the stamp was not to be available in New York City until the day after the ceremony, special authority for the presentation had been granted by the Postmaster General. Presentation of the framed blocks of Mr. Gompers' stamp was made by Postmaster Albert Goldman to Wilbur J. Cohen, assistant director of the AFL, and by James Quinn and Moe Foner of the United Public Workers Labor Council, before an audience representing virtually all the AFL unions in New York City.

Mr. Cohen said that Mr. Gompers was one of the best of the models who might be cited to show the opportunities of our way of life.

"Where, indeed, was opportunity for the worker in this country," he continued, "if not where Samuel Gompers began his fight against the degradation to which the industrial revolution had brought to the working people.

SING IN CAPITAL

Washington.—The Letter Carriers Quartet of Branch 9 of the AFL National Association of Letter Carriers, Washington, Mrs. Wilson, won many new admirers during a recent visit to Washington. The quartet sang for 1,500 employes in the U. S. Post Office Department between halves of the intradepartmental Washington professional basketball game, and for the national council of administration of the National Association of Letter Carriers.

Elected to AFL Council

Miami, Fla.—William L. McFetridge, president of the Building Service Employes' International Union was elected 19th AFL vice president at the midwinter executive council meeting. He fills the vacancy caused by the death of W. D. Mahon, former president of the Street and Electric Railway Employes.

McFetridge Named AFL Vice President

Miami, Fla.—William L. McFetridge, 56, president of the Building Service Employes International Union, was elected to the AFL Executive Council as 19th vice president.

He was picked at the midwinter meeting of the council to fill the vacancy created by the death of the late W. D. Mahon, former president of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electrical Railway Employes.

Mr. McFetridge is vice president of the Illinois Federation of Labor and president of the Chicago Park Board. He lives in Chicago.

Mr. McFetridge succeeds George Scalise as president of the Building Service Employes on May 14, 1940. He was elected May 9, 1940. Mr. Scalise resigned after he was convicted for extortion on charges made by the late Thomas E. Dewey.

Mr. McFetridge pledged a policy of fair treatment for members and locals of the union and continuing efforts to organize the unorganized.

Under his leadership and policies, membership of the union has more than doubled.

HATS UNION-MADE

New York.—Nathaniel Spector, manager of the AFL International Office of the AFL United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers, announced that John-Frederics is the first of the "class" hat makers to sign a union contract.

Tell Your Story, Press Will Listen

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent for AFL News Service

Chicago.—Seventy-two union men who must deal with the press as part of their work gathered in a conference on public relations for labor and reporting labor news at the University of Illinois branch on Chicago's Navy pier Jan. 28.

Only five or six of the group ever had been professional newspapermen. A captain, a lieutenant, a couple of workers, a liquor salesman, an electrician and a milk driver recognized by this writer were more typical of the whole group.

In a Saturday of discussion and exchange of personal experience we soaked up a little technique to help them compete in the battle of public opinion with the expert, expensive public relations counsel at the disposal of American management.

Although organized labor has a large and influential press of its own, the management side of the picture has had much better presentation in the general press and other media of general communication. This is labor's fault, largely, according to one of the conference speakers, Ross Stagner, U. of I. psychology professor.

Stagner said unions in conflict, especially local unions, have failed to put their side of the issues before the public as well as management. Newspapers and other media will accept and publish unions views, if properly presented, he believed.

"We need a more equal distribution of news," he said. "We are making progress as more and more union people are learning journalism."

As a psychologist, the diagnosed unionism as a result of (1) frustration, and (2) transfer of anger.

Business men often hate unions, he said, because they are frustrated by the restrictions which unions impose on the business men's "rights" to exploit the workmen.

A larger group of union haters, said Prof. Stagner, never have suffered at the hands of organized labor in any way, and may have gained by labor's efforts. But they hate unions anyway because they have to be mad at somebody.

"Many workers also look them out of bed too early in the morning," he added, "and they are kicked back so they are aggressively hostile to unions. They have to have a fight somewhere."

The same man also hates management, too. But which side has access to the newspapers, the radio and the magazines? The anti-union side. The antimanagement people are behind crackpots, or minorities and nobody pays any attention to them.

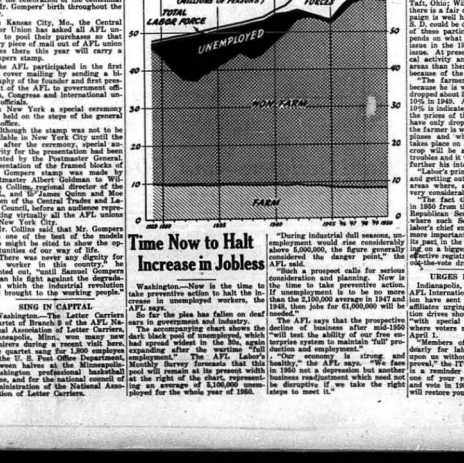
He said it is up to labor's own amateur journalists to break down the stereotyped pictures of labor chiefs as rackets run by crooks and Communists. It can be done, he said, by concentration on issues, not personalities.

Time Now to Halt Increase in Jobless

Washington.—Now is the time to take preventive action to halt the increase in unemployment workers, the AFL says.

So far the plan has fallen on deaf ears in government and industry.

The Fotocrayings chart above the dark black pool of unemployed, which had spread widest in the 30s, again expanding after the wartime "full employment." The AFL Labor's Monthly Survey forecasts that this pool will remain at its present width at the right of the chart, representing an average of 3,100,000 unemployed for the whole year of 1950.



"During industrial dull seasons, unemployment in the United States rose above 6,000,000, the figure generally considered the danger point," the AFL said.

"Such a prospect calls for serious consideration and planning. Now is the time to act, not after recession hits. If unemployment is to be no more than the 2,100,000 average in 1947 and 1948, then jobs for 61,000,000 will be needed."

The AFL says that the prospective decline of business after mid-1950 "will test the ability of our free enterprise system to maintain 'full' production and employment."

"Our economy is strong and healthy," the AFL says. "We face in 1950 not a depression but another business readjustment which need not be disruptive, if we take the right steps to meet it."